Foodgrains Reserves

798. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of foodgrains reserves available with Government,

(b) the anticipated short-fall in the Kharif production and the procurement of foodgrains by the Government agencies; and

(c) whether the reserves stocks are adequate to meet the requirements of 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The total stock of foodgrains with the public agencies as on 1st October, 1987 was estimated at 16.90 million tonnes.

(b) It is too early to indicate the anticipated short-fall in kharif production and procurement.

(c) Yes, Sir, the stocks available are adequate to meet the present requirements of the public distribution system.

Damage caused by Drought and Hail Storms in Himachal Pradesh

799 SHRI ANAND SHARMA. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of damages suffered by the farmers and food-growers of Himachal Pradesh by the recent hail storms and drought;

(b) whether the Government of Himachal Pradesh has submitted a detailed claim to the centre for relief; and

(c) the amount of relief provided to the State of Himachal Pradesh??

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) As per the memorandum on drought relief submitted by the State Government, the damage to agriculture and horticulture crops due to drought in Himachal Pradesh is estimated to be 4.20 hectares. No damage to crops were reported by flash floods in the memorandum.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Based on the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief thereon, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 18.11 crores for drought relief and Rs 0 93 crores for flood relief has been approved.

White Paper on Steel Industry

800. DR. H P SHARMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to replies to Unstarred Question 1415 and Starred Question 266 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August and 14th August, 1987 respectively and state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to bring out the long-awaited white paper on the steel industry;

(b) if so, what are the major areas sought to be covered by the White Paper; and

(c) whether Government have since reviewed the existing guidelines for the setting up of the composiet mills to ensure greater production and speedier import substitution?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Government are engaged in reviewing the growth and present situation of the steel industry and mapping out its direction and course of development till the end of the century A strategy paper containing long-term perspective plan is currently under preparation which shall be considered by a Group headed by Member Incharge, Planning Commission. No time frame has been fixed in this regard.

(c) The matter is under consideration of Government.

Proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government for Procurement of Rigs

801. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware that because of the varying typical geological conditions, it is not possible to drill tube wells by available DTH rig machines in some of the districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether a proposal from the Madhya Pradesh Government for procurement of 12 combination type new generation rigs is lying pending with the Central Government;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to clear the proposal and provide adequate financial assistance for the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Due to varied geological formations and difficult terrain, special rigs with greater drilling capacity and manoeuverability are required for drilling operations in some parts of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (d) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has intimated their requirement of 12 combination type drilling rigs to the Central Government. However, as the supply of drinking water to rural areas is a State subject, State Governments are to plan, formulate and implement rural drinking water supply schemes. The Central Government provides financial assistance to supplement the efforts of the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Financial assistance under ARWSP is not provided for purchase of rigs. The rigs required for implementing rural water supply programme are procured by the States themselves. However, for meeting drinking water scarcity, an ad-hoc ways and means advance of Rs 1 05 crores has been made available to Madhya Pradesh for the purchase of 4 drilling rigs including one combination type rig during the current year, as part of drought assistance.

Drought conditions in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Praesh

802. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have faced severe drought conditions during 1985-86 and 1986-87;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what efforts have been made by the Central Government to help the State Governments to meet the situation; and

(d) the funds made available to combat the drought situation for the State Government concerned to 1986-87 and 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.